

not.

A  
SUNDAY RAMBLE;

O R,  
Modern Sabbath-Day Journey;

In and about the CITIES of  
LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

Describing, in an agreeable Manner, the various interesting  
SCENES which are weekly to be met with at the

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mineral Wells,    | Ordinaries,      |
| Coffee-Houses,    | Publick Gardens, |
| Places of Publick | Parks,           |
| Worship,          | Sunday Routs,    |
| Taverns,          | Bagnios, &c.     |

OF THIS METROPOLIS AND IT'S ENVIRONS.

Exhibiting a true Account of the Manner in which that  
Day is generally employed by all Ranks and Degrees of  
People, from the common Beggar to the dignified Peer.

The Whole illustrated with a great Variety of Original  
CHARACTERS, ANECDOTES and MEMOIRS, of Persons  
in real Life; with pleasing Remarks thereupon. In-  
tended to shew, in their proper Light, the Follies and  
Vices of the present Age; without the Severity of a CY-  
NICK, or the Indulgence of a SENSUALIST.

---

*Persons of ev'ry Rank, and ev'ry Age,  
Who know the Scenes that occupy each Page,  
Will, when they read my Book, with Pleasure say—  
" He's well describ'd our weekly Holiday."*

---

THE FOURTH EDITION.

---

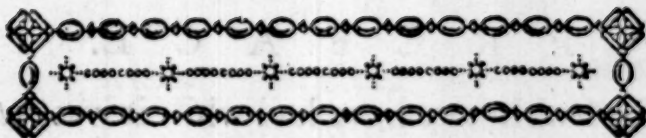
L O N D O N;

Printed for the AUTHOR, by JAMES HARRISON,  
No. 30, Giltspur-Street :

And Sold by J. BEW, Paternoster-Row; W. DAVENHILL,  
Cornhill, opposite the Royal Exchange; T. LEWIS, Russel-  
Street, Covent-Garden; J. RIDLEY, St. James's-Street;  
and by all other Booksellers.

[Price only One Shilling.]

1607/5235.



# P R E F A C E

T O T H E

F O U R T H E D I T I O N .

 T H E favourable reception of the former editions of this work by the Publick, the recommendation which it received from the learned Authors of the Critical Review\*, and the many orders the

---

\* The character given by the Critical Reviewers, in their publication for January 1775, was literally as follows.

“ The Author of this piece seems to be well  
“ acquainted with the various places of resort  
“ in and about London and Westminster. The  
“ several

## P R E F A C E.

the Publishers have had while it was *out of print*, have induced the Author again to commit it to the press; though his distance from the metropolis would not conveniently permit him to review the scenes, and adapt the descriptions of the various places of resort more agreeable, perhaps, to their present appearance. But, as he apprehends there are not in so short a space of time any very material alterations, and as a trifling variation can be of no consequence to those readers who are not frequenters of the places described, and will easily be distinguished by such as are, it is presumed this will not be

---

“ several incidents he relates, are such as may  
“ naturally be supposed to occur; the manners  
“ are justly described; and the characters in  
“ general strongly marked.----A stranger who  
“ would form an idea of the manner in which  
“ the Sabbath is usually spent about London,  
“ will here meet with information and enter-  
“ tainment.”

esteemed



## P R E F A C E.

esteemed any disadvantage in the work: especially, when it is considered, that such a procedure would have rendered it necessary to alter many other parts, in order to preserve that consistency which the Author has endeavoured at (he flatters himself, not unsuccessfully) through the whole of this little performance; and even when that had been effected, the Publick would rather have been presented with a *new work* on the *same subject*, than a *new edition* of the *same work*.

Having premised this, it may be only necessary to add, that, upon the strictest review of the whole, the Author has not found it necessary to make many material corrections; though he cannot but confess he has heard it spoken of in very disrespectful terms, by such as he imagines have conceived themselves to be affected by some particular passages; though he solemnly declares,

## P R E F A C E.

declares, he has not the least antipathy to any particular sect of religion, profession, or station in life; neither can he charge himself with having satisfied any personal pique in the delineation of his characters: but he most sincerely believes, there are many meritorious persons, of every sect, profession, and station in life, from the Beggar to the Throne. So that, however he may have offended some, he most heartily assures them it must be entirely owing to their own application of things; as he never intended the least particular satire, but only to put general vices out of countenance, by (if not an useful) yet, at least, an innocent exposure.

THE



T H E

INTRODUCTION.

PROMPTED by curiosity to visit the metropolis, after upwards of thirty years entirely devoted to the country, I set out for London pretty early in the Summer, intending to stay in town till the ensuing Winter; and, as I ever had a strong propensity for writing, was determined to notice whatever I thought remarkable, and form it into a book at my return into the country, for the amusement of such of my neighbours as had never been in town.

Having communicated this design to the person I resided with, (who had formerly been a schoolfellow, and was now a very eminent

## THE INTRODUCTION.

eminent druggist in the heart of the city) he was pleased to say, that he doubted not but he could procure me sufficient speculation, not only for the amusement of my friends; but such as would be very acceptable, as well as interesting, to the publick at large. ‘But first,’ said he, ‘I will have your approbation; by previously leading you into the scenes I could wish you to describe. If you think them worthy attention, you may improve the hint; if not, you may place those occurrences among the rest of your observations, for the sole purpose you at first intended. But I should for my own part imagine, that the peculiar manner in which the Sabbath-day alone is generally employed in this metropolis, with descriptions of the various places particularly resorted to on that day, and accounts of the different characters I shall without doubt be able to make you acquainted with, might be placed in such a light as to render it a very entertaining performance.’

There needed no farther recommendation to induce me to begin this attempt, which  
I in-

## THE INTRODUCTION.

I instantly resolved to put in execution the next Sunday : and the following sheets contain a faithful account of the occurrences which happened during our perambulation, together with the judicious remarks of my sensible friend ; who, far from censuring the innocent amusement of walking in the fields and publick gardens about town, after divine service, and partaking of moderate refreshment at those places, thinks it highly necessary that those whose business will not conveniently permit them to leave the metropolis on any other day, should then endeavour to receive a little wholesome air, were it only for the preservation of their health.

How far I may have succeeded, in properly digesting the various circumstances in the order they happened, and accurately describing the several places we visited, must be determined by the impartial publick : and if the reader receives as much pleasure from the relation, as the author did in collecting it, he will neither think his time nor his money mispent.



## THE INTRODUCTION.

It may probably be expected that I should say something about the criticks; but that, I imagine, will be needless, as the Critical and Monthly Reviewers may perhaps think this performance too insignificant for their notice, and I know of few other publick criticks, whose praise or censure can add to or diminish the reputation of a writer\*. With respect to my readers----those who are *purchasers* will be extremely welcome to find what faults they please, and make such alterations in their own books as they may think proper; but I humbly hope no others will presume to depreciate a work that cannot materially hurt *any one*, and *them* not at all.

---

\* Since the first publication of this performance, the LONDON REVIEW, another respectable critique, has originated; which, had it then existed, would doubtless have been mentioned as a publick censor capable of affecting the reputation of an author.





A

## SUNDAY RAMBLE.

---

### CHAP. I.

*Rural Excursions---Bacchanalian Squabble---  
Morning Walk---Tottenham-Court Chapel  
---Moral Reflections---Characters.*

AGREEABLE to the appointment which my reader has seen in the INTRODUCTION, (if he was unfashionable enough to peruse it,) we set out on our intended excursion about four o'clock on a fine summer's morning. The shades of night had just began to retire; and, by their retreat, discovered here and there a staggering bacchanalian, who having sacrificed too freely to his favourite deity, was, after a night spent in riot and debauchery, repairing to his miserable abode.

B

We

## 2 A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

We had not proceeded far, before we discovered several young persons very gaily dressed, waiting at the gate of an inn-yard, for phætons, chaises, and other carriages, which appeared to be getting ready with all possible expedition. I could not help expressing my surprise on seeing such a number of people at so early an hour, seemingly on the same errand; (for having passed by those we had first observed, I perceived that the next gateway was occupied in the same manner;) when my friend informed me, that they were giddy young people who were going on a Sunday excursion to Windsor, Hampton-Court, &c. where they would probably spend much more than the labours of the foregoing week could defray. ‘Thus,’ continued he, ‘they early contract a desire for gaiety and extravagance, which generally terminates in their destruction. The greater part of these you have seen, are journeymen, and even apprentices, in genteel businesses; who having contracted intimacies with milliners and mantua-makers, are, from the peculiar taste of that kind of gentry, obliged to launch into every species of polite extravagance, in order to secure their very desirable affections. Hence we frequently see, that when at length they become possessed of the amiable objects, they begin life with such an *eclât*, that their thoughtless inattention to business

‘soon

‘ soon makes it’s appearance in the Gazette,  
 ‘ and they sink, unpitied, into obscurity.’

Passing on, in our way towards the Foundling-Hospital, we perceived a groupe of *wretches*, male and female, round a kind of cauldron filled with an infusion of saffras well known by the name of saloop, which they seemed to drink with the greatest avidity; uttering, at intervals, such horrid oaths and execrations, blended with obscenity, as sufficiently intitled them to the appellation I have bestowed. As we drew nearer, I found there were five or six persons; of which number, two only were men, and the rest seemed to be the most abandoned prostitutes. One of the men (as we were afterwards informed) having drank two or three basons of the liquor, refused paying for them; on which, after some altercation, the saloop-man seized him by the collar, threw him upon the pavement, and pommelled him pretty severely: the other seeing his companion thus used, fell about the man with all the fury his intoxicated condition would permit; and one of the girls, who it seems was a *dulcinea* of the saloop-man, with equal good-will, and more ability, about him. Thus a general encounter commenced; the saloop-man laid about the aggressor, his companion about the saloop-man, and the girl about him: during which time the other women appeared to be extremely busy in separating

#### 4 A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

the combatants; when, I suppose, they took the opportunity of rifling their pockets; for when we interfered, and had so far reconciled them that they agreed to satisfy the man, they found themselves without the power of accomplishing it. The girls had however retreated, as soon as they perceived us; and, as the intoxication of the men prevented their knowing them again should they even see them, were most probably out of the reach of justice.

Leaving these people to lament their folly and debauchery, which would no doubt enjoin them to fasting and penance for a great part of the week, we proceeded on our way; not without many reflections on their imprudent conduct.

By the time we reached the fields, the sun had just began to make his appearance; and the chearful birds were saluting him with a concert of music that would not have disgraced the most harmonious assembly.

As we passed along, ruminating on the various beautiful scenes which continually attracted our notice at that early hour of prime, we could not but remark the folly of those sons of sloth who, rather than forego the poorest of all animal gratifications, deprive themselves of one of the finest sights which the universe can boast of: for such, most certainly, is the rising sun on a clear and beautiful morning.

‘ And

‘ And not the sight alone,’ said my ingenious friend, ‘ but the health and chearfulness which attend it. For, doubtless,’ continued he, ‘ were people in general to rise early, and take a moderate walk before they began their daily exercises or labour; the bills of mortality would greatly decrease, as well as the pride and opulence of we dealers in medicine; who owe more of our importance to one single branch of intemperance, than all the natural causes put together.’

My friend was going to proceed; when he was suddenly interrupted by the approach of three or four smart females, and an equal number of the male creation. These, we presently found, were gentlemen’s servants; who, having embezzled liquors from their respective masters, were repairing to a well-known house near Kentish-Town, to regale themselves with syllabub, rum and milk, &c. and as they observed we were going on in the same road, and were then at no great distance from the intended place, they very civilly invited us to partake with them. This we readily complied with; merely from a supposition, that it might perhaps be productive of an adventure. In this, however, we presently found ourselves mistaken; for no sooner were the liquors exhausted, than some of the girls began to be very uneasy lest they should not get back before the housekeeper



## 6. A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

was stirring; who they all declared was a cross old *toad*, and grudged young people those pleasures which her age and peevish disposition would not suffer her to share.

After a profusion of unmeaning compliments on both sides, we took leave of this company, better pleased by far with the liquors, than the providers; whose loud and almost continual laughter, at the supposed pleasantries of each other, was not near so agreeable to us as it appeared to be to themselves.

We then rambled about the fields for some time, without perceiving any thing worthy of notice; till at length we found ourselves near the Chapel in Tottenham-Court-Road, built for that indefatigable labourer in the vineyard of his MASTER, the late Reverend Mr. Whitefield, chiefly at the expence of the Countess of Huntingdon, remarkable for her unfeigned piety. Here I was agreeably surprised, to hear a great number of melodious voices singing with the utmost harmony the praises of ALMIGHTY GOD. This was a pleasure I little expected to receive at such an early hour; for it was then scarce six o'clock. But my friend perceiving my surprise, informed me that these people always meet so early on a Sunday morning, owing to the great numbers of the congregation that constantly attend the LORD'S Supper on that day, who would not be able to receive it,



it, if they did not assemble thus soon: telling me, at the same time, that he had a Sacrament-ticket in his pocket; which, if I chose, would procure me admittance, while he amused himself with looking out for adventures.

Glad of the opportunity, I immediately accepted it, and was instantly introduced among the congregation; which consisted of some hundreds of persons of both sexes, all dressed with amazing neatness, and conducting themselves with the greatest decency and devotion: whilst the regularity with which the pious clergy administered the Sacrament; the excellent admonitions and exhortations which they gave; and the unfeigned sincerity with which they appeared to be received; all conspired to render it the most pleasing sight I had ever beheld.

Struck with admiration, I stood with my eyes fixed on the ground, in deep contemplation on the great and material difference between these people and those of the Established Church in general, (not much in favour of the latter;) when an elderly gentleman tapped me on the shoulder, and asked me, with the greatest affability, to accompany him to the LORD'S Table. Conscious of my own unworthiness, I begged to be excused; informing him that curiosity alone had brought me there, without the least preparation for so awful a ceremony: that I was  
so

# 8 A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

so well pleased, however, with the remarkable devotion of the people, that I should doubtless partake with them on some future day, when I might be much better prepared.

We then began a general conversation; in the course of which he gave me to understand, that having acquired a small fortune by mere dint of industry, which enabled him to live decently without the care and fatigue of business, he had taken a small house at Marybone, where the whole of his employ was confined to the cultivation of his garden. He likewise told me, that he was not what is strictly called a Methodist, having been brought up in the true principles of the Church of England; but perceiving the inactivity of the clergy in general of the Established Church, was in fact (to use his own expression) *of no religion at all*: and only came now and then to this place, because he thought it differed very little from what Protestant churches *should be*; and was, in his opinion, much better than they *really are*. ‘Notwithstanding which,’ continued he, ‘I have my objections to these people; as indeed I have to all sects whatever, whose tenets I am any way acquainted with. To speak freely, this is my opinion of them all.-----The *Papists*, who value themselves on being the most ancient kind of Christians, are no doubt apostates from the true religion: and, as the Apostle Paul  
truly

' truly prophesied, have departed from the  
 ' faith; speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their  
 ' conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding  
 ' to marry, and commanding to abstain from  
 ' meats. These are their known practices  
 ' and professed tenets: the idea, therefore,  
 ' that this is the ancient and true Church of  
 ' CHRIST, must be absurdity itself.---The  
 ' Protestants are next; and these, it must be  
 ' confessed, are a much more rational set of  
 ' people than the former, having wiped  
 ' away many of the superstitious fopperies  
 ' of the Romish Church. Pity it is, that  
 ' the temper of the times would not permit  
 ' them to make a *thorough Reformation*, and  
 ' establish, at once, the ancient simplicity  
 ' of the Christian Religion!---Next are the  
 ' Dissenters, or Presbyterians, (for their dis-  
 ' ference is very trifling;) who, determined  
 ' to avoid every branch of Romish supersti-  
 ' tion, protest against all manner of forms,  
 ' and thereby throw away the good with the  
 ' evil. Were they not quite so scrupulous,  
 ' (as they are less careless of religion than  
 ' the generality of Protestants) I should be  
 ' ready to pronounce them the true Church  
 ' of CHRIST, according to the best of my  
 ' judgment.-----Now for the people before  
 ' us; sometimes called *Whitefieldites*, but  
 ' generally *Methodists*; to whom my great  
 ' and almost only objection is, their seeming  
 ' neglect of GOD THE FATHER; by di-  
 ' recting

10 A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

' recting their prayers *immediately to GOD*,  
 ' THE SON, instead of addressing them to HIS  
 ' FATHER *through HIM*; and, like the  
 ' Papists and Protestants, bowing at HIS  
 ' name, without noticing that of HIS FA-  
 ' THER.-----The *Anabaptists* differ very  
 ' little from the Methodists, in any thing  
 ' but the baptismal ceremony; which they  
 ' do not administer to *infants*, and after a  
 ' particular form to persons of riper years:  
 ' but as this is contrary to the express  
 ' words of CHRIST, who said, *Suffer little*  
 ' *children to come unto me, and forbid them*  
 ' *not*, you cannot wonder at my disappro-  
 ' bation of their distinction.-----I shall now  
 ' only mention the *Quakers*; who being an  
 ' apparently harmless set of people, would  
 ' not meet with my censure, (though their  
 ' doctrine appears to be ridiculous, as well  
 ' as unscriptural) did they not seem to trifle  
 ' too much with the inspiration of the HOLY  
 ' GHOST. In short, the *third* person of the  
 ' Trinity is this people's favourite branch;  
 ' as the *second* is that of the Methodists, and  
 ' the *first* of the Deists. Neither of which  
 ' extremes is, in my opinion, the right way.'

Here the old gentleman ceased: and I was  
 not a little pleased to find a person so ex-  
 tremely judicious, whose sentiments of re-  
 ligion perfectly agreed with my own.

After this, I informed him of my Rambling  
 Scheme; and asked him to give me his assist-  
 ance,

ance, by letting me know the particulars of any remarkable characters present, with which he might be acquainted.

Accordingly, he immediately directed my attention to an aged female that sat near the Communion-table, who I had before observed constantly lifting up her hands and eyes with the greatest seeming devotion. 'That woman,' said he, 'is a finished hypocrite. I have known her near twenty years; in the course of which, she has had no less than three husbands: and having lately lost her last, puts on this remarkable appearance of zealous piety, to conceal the libidinous emotions of her heart; which beats strongly for a raw country lad, who she has promised to make her fourth, as soon as a *decent* time of widowhood is expired, and she is convinced he is sufficiently *converted* to justify her choice on that account with her more conscientious acquaintance. You will wonder, perhaps, what the young fellow can see agreeable in a person of her age and appearance: and whether it is from the extreme simplicity of the one, or the riches of the other, I am indeed at a loss to determine. This, however, is certain; that her hypocritical conduct has brought business to her shop, and enabled her to rank with the most eminent retail dealers; which may perhaps induce the young fellow to marry her, for  
the



‘ the sake of bettering his fortune ; who,  
 ‘ most probably, when he has got her into  
 ‘ the nuptial snare, will soon be tired of his  
 ‘ deceitful spouse, and launch into all the  
 ‘ excesses and dissipations of the town, with  
 ‘ which she now thinks him quite unac-  
 ‘ quainted ; leaving her to lament the folly  
 ‘ of giving way to her desires, and imagin-  
 ‘ ing her antiquated charms sufficient to  
 ‘ confine the boisterous passions of a vigorous  
 ‘ inexperienced youth.’

When he had finished this account, I could  
 not help remarking on the bad effects of re-  
 ligious hypocrisy ; since it not only proves  
 the bane of it's possessors, but greatly hurts  
 the cause of that religion where it is found  
 to be most prevalent. This has prejudiced  
 many worthy persons against the Methodists,  
 who would otherwise respect and esteem  
 them ; and the depravity of a few, has (like  
 national reflection) been unjustly attributed  
 to the whole. So that if a man now ap-  
 pears at all thoughtful about GOD and a  
 future state, he is immediately called a *Me-  
 thodist*, an *enthusiast*, and a *madman* ; and  
 these words are esteemed synonymous, im-  
 plying him to be a *hypocrite*.

After this, the old gentleman continued  
 his observations. ‘ Take notice, said he,  
 ‘ of those three young girls that sit in the  
 ‘ pew on the left-hand side of the widow ;  
 ‘ who being come without their respective  
 ‘ parents,

' parents, are, notwithstanding the solemnity of the place, actually exchanging glances with a like number of youths in the right-hand gallery. These are tradesmen's daughters in the neighbourhood, with whom I am perfectly acquainted; and was I not determined to reprove them, and threaten to inform their parents if they continue these indiscretions, would perhaps form such fatal connections by their imprudent behaviour, as might bring everlasting shame and disgrace on themselves, and destroy the happiness of their several relations.'

After remarking on the levity of these young people, I perceived a middle-aged woman, dressed in very genteel mourning, whose countenance bespoke her to be a very different sort of matron from that we had before observed, and begged to be informed if he knew who she was. 'Glad I am,' replied he, 'to have an opportunity of making you acquainted with such a character: she is indeed no hypocrite; her conduct has ever been irreproachable. About ten months ago she lost a most exemplary husband; since which time, she has experienced a variety of misfortunes, as little expected as deserved; and though she bears them with the greatest possible fortitude, it is but too evident that they prey upon her constitution, and will soon finish their own existence,'

#### 14 A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

‘istence, by putting an end to her days.  
‘The young gentleman in dark grey clothes  
‘that sits on the opposite seat, is her son;  
‘who is an amiable young man, and gives  
‘her, by his prudent conduct, the only  
‘earthly pleasure she is capable of receiving.’  
‘Here the old gentleman paused---and, re-  
collecting my friend would be tired of wait-  
ing, I hastily took my leave; after promising  
to call at his house on the first convenient  
opportunity.

When I got out of the chapel, I found  
him very impatient for my return; for he  
had just seen a great crowd of people hurrying  
across the fields; and not being able to  
learn the occasion of such a concourse,  
waited for me in order to follow after them.

But this not promising to be on a similar  
subject with the greater part of the present  
chapter, I shall leave my reader to his reflections  
on what has been already said, by putting  
an end to the first part of my perambulation.

## CHAP. II.

*Bruising-Match, considered as a Species of Gaming---Artful Scheme of a Knowing-one defeated---Description of Bagnigge-Wells---Anecdotes, &c. of the Frequenters.*

**S**TUDIOUS to render myself agreeable to the reader, I kindly gave him room for reflection, by finishing the first chapter; at a time when I had not sufficient leisure to inform my friend and conductor of many particulars therein contained, or indeed to consider them myself.

The hurry we were in to know the cause of such a tumult, made us increase our usual speed; so that we arrived at the place almost as soon as the multitude began to halt; and could then perceive, that it was chiefly composed of the most depraved part of the human system. These, we presently learnt, were assembled together, in order to behold the dextrous manouvres of two noted bruisers, who were then going to decide a supposed wager of twenty guineas, by their agility in boxing. A knowing-one, however, who stood near us, whispered me gently that it was only a *sham* fight; and if I had a mind to bett any thing, would let me into the secret for a trifle: adding, at the same time,

that I might make it worth my while ; as he was very certain there were several *greenhorns* present, who would be easily taken in.

Shocked at so base a proposal, I mildly reproved him for making such an overture. When I was instantly attacked with a volley of blasphemous oaths : charging me with being a religious hypocrite ; and informing me, that I need have no scruples of conscience about *cheating* any body, as he would have taken care I should not have *won* much, let me have laid what I would. Certain of being greatly worsted, had I been disposed to have made any reply, I let him go on, without answering a word : so that finding he could make nothing of me, he plunged into the crowd as soon as he had ended his speech, and I saw no more of him.

In the mean time, the two fellows began the encounter; *handling their fists* (if I may be allowed this bear-garden phrase) with as much care and deliberation as a couple of fencing-masters would their foils : while the hands of their associates were no doubt much nimbler employed about the pockets of the unwary spectators. After a few flourishes, and two or three tumbles on the grass, one of them acknowledged himself vanquished, (without having received any visible hurt ;) and the other was declared conqueror, by a loud shout from the mob.

Heartily disgusted with this scene, we  
quitted



quitted it with almost as much haste as had brought us thither : and, as we went along, my friend informed me, that this kind of *diversion* was by no means uncommon on a Sunday morning ; so that he should have instantly known the cause of their assembly, had they not met at a different part of the field from that generally appropriated to these occasions, and which is called, by way of distinction, The Green Stage.

He then observed, that what the fellow had said about it's being a feigned battle, was most certainly true. 'And this,' added he, 'was artfully communicated with a view  
' of deceiving you more importantly : for  
' if you had been one of those people who  
' are fond of over-reaching others, and had  
' for that purpose accepted his proposal ; he  
' would have taken care to mention the  
' contrary person, (as indeed he afterwards  
' intimated) and procure a companion to  
' lay against you, in order to bite the biter.  
' Thus we see how easily those who are fond  
' of wagering may be sometimes taken in,  
' by the plausible pretences of a designing  
' knave ; and, at the time they think them-  
' selves certain of duping another, be them-  
' selves the prey of a sharper, without the  
' consolation of being innocently so.'

The justness of my friend's remark extended itself, in my idea, to every species of gaming ; and I could not help exclaiming

against the folly as well as villainy of gambling; whether at a simple bruising-match, that favourite entertainment of the vulgar, or the more refined charms of the cockpit or hazard-table: heartily wishing the civil magistrates would properly interpose; and at least abolish so much of this destructive infatuation as comes immediately under their province.

By this time we had nearly reached Bagnigge-Wells, and my friend advised that we should call in and drink the waters; which, he informed me, were of a salutary effect, and would most probably, if they were at a greater distance from the metropolis, be as much frequented as any of our more eminent spaws. ‘And indeed,’ continued he, ‘it is at present a place of general resort; so that we shall by no means find it barren of amusement. I have myself seen some hundreds of a morning; whose various characters and appearance must certainly furnish sufficient entertainment for a contemplative mind. And though there are several minerals in the neighbourhood not to be despised, yet the superior accommodations of this place render it more frequented than any other, as I think it justly deserves.’ After such an account, I needed no invitation to enter; and we were immediately admitted, on paying only three-pence each.

As we did not go to this place in the character

rafter of valetudinarians, we paid little attention to the waters; which are by no means disagreeable to the palate, and are well described, as my friend acquainted me, in a little pamphlet wrote by Dr. Bevis, setting forth their various virtues and effects, which the company may peruse during their stay. There are likewise several newspapers constantly taken in for the amusement of the company; and, in short, every accommodation that can reasonably be expected or desired.

‘A few years ago,’ said my faithful conductor, ‘this place had little to boast of, being only a small alehouse, seldom visited by persons of any reputation; but since the present proprietor has had possession, the garden has been continually enlarging and improving to the perfection in which you now behold it. So that it has at present very little to envy, in my opinion, even the justly celebrated one of Vauxhall; and is much superior to most of the numerous tea-gardens you will visit in the afternoon. The great room, too,’ continued my friend, ‘which is now converted into two, was some time since much admired for it’s elegance; and greatly frequented, on account of a fine organ placed there for the entertainment of the company. The organ, however; is not now suffered to be used; none being permitted at the publick places in this county, since the opening

‘ opening of the Pantheon in the Spa-Fields;  
 ‘ and the room is divided, (though the for-  
 ‘ mer elegance remains) because of the vast  
 ‘ number of people that used to walk there,  
 ‘ to the great hindrance of the waiters, who  
 ‘ were by that means prevented from giving  
 ‘ proper attendance.’

When my friend had informed me of these particulars, I proceeded to take a view of the place; which I found to consist of several beautiful walks, ornamented with a great variety of curious shrubs and flowers, all in the utmost perfection. About the centre of the garden is a small round fish-pond, in the midst of which is a curious fountain, representing a Cupid besriding a swan which spouts the water through it's beak to a great height. Round this place, and indeed almost over the whole garden, are genteel seats for company; which my friend said we should undoubtedly find quite full in the afternoon, notwithstanding their prodigious number. At a little distance from the pond is a neat cottage, built in the rural stile; and not far from that, over a bridge leading across a piece of water that passes through part of the garden, is a pretty piece of grotto-work, large enough to contain near twenty people. Besides which, there is a small house, and several seats placed by the water-side, for such of the company as chuse to smoke, or drink cyder, ale, &c. which are not permitted in the other parts of the garden.

Having

Having sufficiently admired this agreeable place, I did not wonder at my friend's encomiums, though they at first seemed to be rather exaggerated. We then began to survey the company, made up of about three hundred persons; among which were several genteel females, and one in particular of exquisite beauty, with whom my companion appeared to be acquainted. 'Who is that lady,' said I to him, 'that you just now complimented *en passant*?' 'She is,' replied he, 'the wife of an eminent tradesman in the city; and is but lately raised to that dignity from being his menial servant.

'About two years ago, he lost his wife, to whom he had been married many years; and though he is now near seventy, and has several marriageable children, has been foolishly drawn into wedlock by the artful contrivance of this woman. Having admitted him to the greatest familiarities, after the death of his wife, she informed him that she found herself with child; and begged his advice how to act. "For," added she, "I have frequently heard my father say, and confirm it with the most solemn oath, that if any man should be base enough to ruin his daughter, he would certainly deprive him of life: nor did he doubt, as he used to say, but he should receive his majesty's clemency; when the circumstances of the case, and how great the aggravation was,

" were



“ were properly considered. Now, as I know  
 “ him to be a very resolute man, and am cer-  
 “ tain that he never forfeited his word when  
 “ he swore to any thing; I am afraid, when  
 “ he knows you have ruined me, (and  
 “ know he certainly must, for I shall not be  
 “ able to conceal it much longer) that he  
 “ will by some means or other put an end  
 “ to your days. So that I shall be deprived  
 “ at once of all I hold dear in the world:  
 “ you (who though you have ruined me, I  
 “ cannot help loving) will be murdered,  
 “ and my father hanged for doing it. Every  
 “ virtuous person will shun me! I shall be  
 “ poor, despised, and abandoned! And,  
 “ what grieves me more than all the rest,  
 “ the innocent little infant, the child of  
 “ your own body, (if I should live to bring  
 “ it into the world) will undoubtedly come  
 “ to want, and one day curse it’s wicked  
 “ and imprudent parents!”

‘ Here she shed abundance of tears, and  
 ‘ hung about his neck with every mark of  
 ‘ fondness: while the old gentleman kindly  
 ‘ sympathised with her; and, in the fulness  
 ‘ of his heart, promised to marry her the  
 ‘ next day, in order to prevent the effects of  
 ‘ what her father had so resolutely threatened,  
 ‘ and make her all the amends in his power.  
 ‘ She then drew a note from her pocket,  
 ‘ which she had previously copied from one  
 ‘ wrote by an attorney, requesting him to  
 ‘ sign

' sign it, if he meant to do her justice.  
 ' Startled at this, he at first seemed to de-  
 ' cline: but the thoughts of her father's  
 ' revenge, together with her apparent love,  
 ' and concern for his preservation, at length  
 ' determined him; and, in an evil hour, he  
 ' signed the fatal paper. After this, he  
 ' knew it was needless to refuse what he had  
 ' promised; and, in a few days, they were  
 ' married.

' As the whole of this contrivance was  
 ' evidently planned to ensnare the old man,  
 ' the affair of her pregnancy being without  
 ' the least foundation) she found herself un-  
 ' der the necessity of procuring a younger  
 ' person, in order to make good that part of  
 ' her story. For this purpose, she gave too  
 ' much encouragement to a gentleman that  
 ' visited her husband, who basely reduced  
 ' her to the necessity of sending for me, on  
 ' another account: when she took the op-  
 ' portunity of attributing her illness to a mis-  
 ' carriage; which perfectly satisfied her de-  
 ' cluded husband, and he has never once  
 ' doubted her virtue. Having entirely era-  
 ' dicated the disorder, I advised her to a course  
 ' of these waters, which are admirably adapted  
 ' to restore health and vigour after any kind  
 ' of illness; and this, I suppose, is the rea-  
 ' son of her being here this morning.'

My friend having concluded, I could not  
 help admiring the artfulness of this woman;  
 though

though I by no means approve the latter part of her conduct, and think her justly punished for so much wickedness and ingratitude. The old man was also rightly served, by being drawn into matrimony; for when he had been indiscreet enough to debauch so fine a woman, this was the least recompence he could make her. The only persons to be pitied are the children; who, though they could not prevent their father's crime, will severely suffer for it, as the extravagance of their mother-in-law every day lessens their fortune.

Hardly had I made these remarks, when a strange figure passed by, which seemed to attract general notice. Though he appeared to be a young person, he was dressed in the habit of an old man in the middle of the last century; and his pale meagre face was partly lost in a large bag-wig, that hung a great way down his back, and was of an enormous size. His legs, which seemed hardly able to support his very thin carcase, were covered with a pair of coarse hose, and moved with a slow, solemn, and processional pace. Perceiving my friend look at him with a scornful countenance, I asked if he knew any thing of him. 'I disclaim any knowledge of so despicable a being,' answered he, 'though I have frequently seen him. He is strongly suspected of being one of those who are guilty of a crime too detestable to mention. He used to dine at an eating-house'

‘ house near Chancery-Lane ; from whence  
 ‘ the continual sneers of the company at  
 ‘ length drove him away. This is all I know,  
 ‘ or desire to know, of so contemptible a  
 ‘ character, and was communicated to me by  
 ‘ a gentleman who frequents that house.’

Being sufficiently informed of this infamous wretch, I directed my eyes in search of some other character, more worthy of notice ; and presently perceived a young man very genteely dressed, who appeared to be in a deep consumption. This, my friend informed me, was the son of a gentleman at Hampstead, possessed of an independent fortune. ‘ He has been in a declining state  
 ‘ some time,’ said my conductor, ‘ proceeding from a disappointment in love. About  
 ‘ two years ago, having received a competent knowledge of the learned languages  
 ‘ at Eton-School, he went to reside with  
 ‘ his father during the summer season, previous to finishing his studies at one of the  
 ‘ universities. While he was at home, he  
 ‘ conceived the most passionate regard for an  
 ‘ amiable young lady, (the daughter of a  
 ‘ poor clergyman on the borders of Wales)  
 ‘ who officiated as governess to one of his  
 ‘ sisters, and entertained an equal affection  
 ‘ for him. Conscious, however, that she  
 ‘ could not expect to be honourably united  
 ‘ with one so much her superior, she prudently informed his mother of the declara-

D

‘ tion

' tion he had made; and begged to be ad-  
 ' vised in a matter which so nearly con-  
 ' cerned her. Accordingly, she was secretly  
 ' sent down to her father; with a very hand-  
 ' some present, and a promise of future  
 ' friendship and support, as a reward for her  
 ' ingenuous conduct. As soon as the young  
 ' gentleman knew of her departure, he em-  
 ' ployed every possible means to find out the  
 ' place of her retreat; but the affair had been  
 ' conducted with so much privacy, that he  
 ' could not gain the least intelligence. He  
 ' then fell into a decline; and was, by the  
 ' time he should have left home to pursue his  
 ' studies, evidently on the borders of the  
 ' grave. Alarmed at the thoughts of losing  
 ' their only son, his parents employed the  
 ' most skilful of the faculty, to endeavour at  
 ' restoring his health. But every effort was  
 ' frustrated: his mind, not his body, being  
 ' diseased, in vain did they try the power of  
 ' medicine. They then informed his mo-  
 ' ther, that unless she could persuade him to  
 ' confess the cause of his illness, and at all  
 ' events endeavour to remove the obstacle to  
 ' his happiness, it would be impossible he  
 ' should long survive. Then, and not be-  
 ' fore, she found it necessary to inform his  
 ' father of his violent regard for his sister's  
 ' late governess: and that it was on that ac-  
 ' count only she had been sent home. So  
 ' eager were they both for his recovery, that



‘ it was agreed to send for the young lady;  
 ‘ with the promise of receiving her as their  
 ‘ daughter, if it was possible for her to com-  
 ‘ ply consistent with her own happiness. In  
 ‘ the mean time, the old lady having obliged  
 ‘ her son to confess what she had long before  
 ‘ been acquainted with, told him that his fa-  
 ‘ ther had consented to his union with Miss  
 ‘ Merit; and that she was hourly expected.  
 ‘ It is not easy to describe the joy which this  
 ‘ intelligence gave him : from that day, how-  
 ‘ ever, he began to amend; and, with the  
 ‘ assistance of these waters, which he has for  
 ‘ some time constantly attended, will doubt-  
 ‘ less be sufficiently recovered in a short time,  
 ‘ to restore his parents happiness, as well as  
 ‘ complete his own.’

By the time my friend had finished this narrative, our appetites began to inform us that breakfast would be very acceptable; and as we could not stop here for that purpose, consistent with our plan, we were obliged to leave this place, without noticing many remarkable characters. I must not forget, however, that just as we quitted the garden, we were presented with the address of two ladies of easy virtue, requesting our attendance by four in the afternoon; but, as we did not think proper to accept their *kind* invitation, we immediately returned the cards, to prevent their being disappointed, and proceeded on our way to the intended coffee-house.

## C H A P. III.

*Coffee-house described----Characters there met with----Thoughts on the present State of Politicks.*

THE place we judged most convenient for our morning repast, was one of the principal coffee-houses near the Royal-Exchange; and, in our way thither, we could not but remark the great number of *friseurs*, who were every where striding along the streets with the utmost expedition.

When we arrived, we found the room tolerably full of various kinds of people. The sober citizen, the stock-jobber, and the politician, were promiscuously seated together; sipping their coffee, reading the papers, and displaying their several talents, (or want of talents) in curious arguments on their favourite topics. Some were enquiring the price of stocks, others the state of trade; while others, more ridiculous than either, were planning schemes for paying the national debt *without any taxes at all*, and contriving methods to humble the Americans, and oblige them to submit to the decrees of a parliament which, so far from representing *them*, does not in reality represent *ourselves*. These were opposed by those of contrary principles;

principles; and the noise of their arguments, together with the little reason contained in them, gave neither satisfaction nor information to any of the hearers.

In the midst of this confusion, I observed a young man, very indifferently clad, whose high cheek-bones prognosticated him to be a Caledonian, sitting in a box by himself, and writing with the greatest seeming composure on several small pieces of paper which lay before him, signed pretty conspicuously with the letters T. S. When he had finished about half a score, he placed them carefully in an old letter-case; and, swallowing down the dregs of his liquor, hurried away, without appearing to take the least notice of any person present. When he was gone, my friend acquainted me, that he knew him well; and that he was a native of Scotland, who, having received a classical education, was come to England in hopes of making a fortune, and establishing his fame, by the literary merit he imagined himself to be possessed of. ‘The London booksellers, however,’ continued my friend, ‘not having discernment enough to perceive the capacity of his extensive genius, seldom employed him in any thing but elaborate translations, or sentimental novels; where he found himself obliged to write much more for money than an ordinary hackney-writer, without the least allowance for abilities.’

90 A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

' Tired of such servile employ, he deter-  
 ' mined to quit the service of the booksellers,  
 ' and woo the tragick muse. For this pur-  
 ' pose, he compleated a tragedy; and doubt-  
 ' ed not but it would gain him the appro-  
 ' bation, as well as encouragement, of the  
 ' publick: but, alas! the managers were too  
 ' dull to observe the beauties of this excellent  
 ' performance; and, after making him dance  
 ' attendance above a dozen times, returned  
 ' the piece, with the following laconick an-  
 ' swer---"*We have enough of THIS sort.*"  
 ' Disappointed in an endeavour which he  
 ' had flattered himself could not fail of suc-  
 ' cess, he hardly knew what scheme to de-  
 ' vise, in order to gain a necessary subsistence:  
 ' at length he determined to advertise for a  
 ' place; and, in consequence of such mode  
 ' of application, has respectively filled the  
 ' several stations of shopman, boarding-school  
 ' usher, clerk, and out-rider; most of which  
 ' employs were lost merely through inatten-  
 ' tion to business, owing to the great desire  
 ' he has to be considered as an author, which  
 ' engrosses the whole of his thoughts. He  
 ' is now commenced news-collector for the  
 ' papers; and occasionally writes essays for  
 ' and against administration, under different  
 ' signatures. The scraps you have just seen  
 ' him manufacture, are newspaper para-  
 ' graphs; which probably contain murders  
 ' that were never committed, battles that  
 ' were

‘ were never fought, rapes that were never  
 ‘ attempted, or robberies that have never  
 ‘ happened ; notwithstanding which, every  
 ‘ one that appears in the papers of to-morrow,  
 ‘ will intitle him to six-pence : and they are  
 ‘ signed with the initials of the name he just-  
 ‘ ly assumes, (viz. Tom Scribble) that it  
 ‘ may be known by whom each was sent ;  
 ‘ as there are many others who follow the  
 ‘ same employ.’

The account my friend gave of this unfortunate young man, naturally suggested that well-known assertion of Mr. Pope---

“ A little learning is a dang’rous thing ;”

at the same time that it strongly confirmed an opinion I ever had, that education without genius is of little consequence in the literary world, and that (though they appear to be contradictory terms) it is even possible to be a *learned blockhead*.

After these observations, my friend pointed out a shabby old fellow with a dark complexion, strongly expressive of the fraternity to which he belonged ; informing me that he was a son of Israel, who had amassed a considerable fortune by the calamities of others. ‘ He lives,’ continued my friend, ‘ near St. Mary Axe, and daily advertises to lend  
 ‘ money on annuities, places, commissions,  
 ‘ and other valuable securities ; which he  
 ‘ generally contrives to get entirely into his  
 ‘ own



' own hands for a trifle, and then disposes of  
 ' them at a very advanced price. Besides  
 ' which, he redeems goods out of pawn;  
 ' procures bail for sinking tradesmen; and  
 ' buys off their whole stock, previous to the  
 ' suing out a commission of bankruptcy by  
 ' their creditors. In this manner he drags  
 ' on his loathsome life; noxious to the pub-  
 ' lick in general, detested by every honest  
 ' man, and dreaded by all those whose ne-  
 ' cessities or extravagance oblige them to  
 ' have any concerns with him. And though  
 ' he lives in the constant commission of crimes  
 ' of the most alarming consequences, he fears  
 ' not to be punished; as the legislature can-  
 ' not easily reach his vices, was it even dis-  
 ' posed to make the attempt.'

The next that engrossed our attention was  
 a grave citizen, who sat listening to the va-  
 rious debates without uttering a single word,  
 but now and then gave a contemptuous smile  
 at their ridiculous arguments; not consider-  
 ing, at the same time, that himself was an  
 object of ridicule, from his unsocial beha-  
 viour, and the formal singularity of his ap-  
 pearance.

During these remarks, an elderly gentle-  
 man walked into the room, and immediately  
 accosted my friend in the most familiar man-  
 ner, placing himself at the same table with  
 us. After a few compliments, I ventured to  
 ask his opinion of the present state of poli-  
 ticks;

ticks; and what he thought would be the consequence of our present dispute with the Americans: to which he replied, that it was a topick so differently handled, that it was almost impossible to get at the right end of the story; but, from the little consideration he had bestowed on the subject, he thought the Americans were indeed blamable, though much less so than our parliament; who, according to his idea of the constitution, could have no right to impose laws on a people they do not represent, when those people are represented by others, who do not think such laws either just, reasonable, or necessary. With respect to the consequences, he said, there seemed to him but little doubt of their perseverance in the resolutions they have formed, to hold no manner of commerce with this kingdom; the bad effects of which were already felt among such branches of our manufactures as have been accustomed to trade to those parts. He then observed upon the Quebeck-Bill; which, he said, appeared to him of a much more alarming nature than the former; that being, at most, but a temporal concern, this a spiritual one. Nor could he conceive, as he said, how it was possible for both Houses of Parliament to consent that Popery should be the established religion of so great a part of his majesty's dominions; when they know, that it cannot be established in any part, according to the  
express

express words of the coronation-oath, without the most flagrant breach of our invaluable rights and privileges. He concluded, with wishing that these acts might be repealed: since, if they are not liable to be attended with such bad consequences as is too generally imagined, it would at least restore the publick tranquillity, and revive the languid state of our American trade.

I could not help admiring the extreme diffidence that accompanied the old gentleman's remarks; which contained, notwithstanding, much more solid sense and reason than all the numerous arguments I had before heard on the subject.

As soon as he had drank his dish of chocolate, and skimmed over the papers, he took his leave, with the same politeness and freedom of behaviour he had used at his entrance. My friend then began to inform me who he was----‘ That gentleman,’ said he, ‘ is one of the principal merchants in this metropolis. I have been acquainted with him many years; and, though he is supposed to be worth upwards of a *plum*, has not half the pride and consequence of the meanest of his clerks. Though he possesses, as it is easy to perceive, a very good share of understanding, he does not think himself properly qualified to fill the high offices of this city; and has therefore carefully avoided them, notwithstanding the

‘ repeated

‘ repeated solicitations of his friends. Un-  
 ‘ ambitious of worldly spendour, he has  
 ‘ trained his son to the same honourable em-  
 ‘ ploy with himself; and only waits till he  
 ‘ has sufficiently acquainted him with mer-  
 ‘ cantile affairs, before he intirely quits the  
 ‘ commercial world, and retires to a fine  
 ‘ estate he has lately purchas’d in one of the  
 ‘ most agreeable parts of the kingdom.’

By the time my friend had finished this relation, we found our appetites sufficiently satisfied; and not perceiving any other characters worthy of notice, we thought proper to quit this place: which we immediately did, on paying for our breakfasts, and receiving an agreeable smile from the captivating eyes of a very beautiful bar-maid.

## CHAP. IV.

*Charity Sermon-----Custom of Filling at  
Taverns-----Characters.*

WHEN we quitted the coffee-house, my friend advised we should go to some place of publick worship; which, he observed, would not only improve our own minds, but furnish a good example for the reader, by shewing him the possibility of attending the service of his MAKER, without interrupting the innocent amusements of the day: and, as I recollected to have seen a paragraph in the Saturday's paper, mentioning that there would be a charity sermon at St. Mary le Strand's, on the following morning, by the Bishop of \*\*\*, my curiosity prompted me to go thither, that I might hear that very uncommon thing, a bishop preach. Accordingly, we made the best of our way there; and arrived just time enough to perceive several well-dressed people coming out of the church. Surprised at such a circumstance, as I was certain the sermon could not possibly be began, I asked my friend what he thought was the meaning of it: when he informed me, that he imagined there had been either a curious anthem by some celebrated vocal performers, or an extraordinary  
fine



fine piece of musick by an admired organist; at which times, he said, it was no uncommon thing to see a number of the musical gentry leave the church; not only to avoid the *unharmonious* voice of the preacher, but that they might be able to make their exit *genteely*, without the inconvenience of dropping their mites in the churchwardens plates,

After this, we entered the church, and found ourselves quite soon enough to hear a very excellent discourse, on a more excellent subject. Strongly did the reverend prelate plead the cause he had undertaken; nor could he possibly fail of success, where the heart was not callous to every tender feeling. As soon as he had finished, the children were placed at the doors, and loudly implored the assistance of the numerous congregation; so that even those whose penurious dispositions would not permit them to part with a farthing from motives of *charity*, were compelled to it through *shame*.

As we came out of the church, my friend acquainted me that there was a place close by, which it would by no means be improper to visit; as it was famous for a custom that prevails at most taverns in town, and procures no small consumption of their inferior wines. ‘The custom alluded to,’ continued he, ‘is the furnishing dumplings, cold meat, &c. for their morning guests, who are called jillers; and this practice

E

occasions

‘ occasions many to visit them, particularly  
 ‘ on a Sunday, who never make their appear-  
 ‘ ance at any other time; but, as the waiters  
 ‘ know this sort of people tolerable well,  
 ‘ they generally take care they shall not have  
 ‘ an over good bargain, by furnishing them  
 ‘ with the worst liquors, and not the best  
 ‘ provisions. This house, however, is an  
 ‘ exception from the general rule; and,  
 ‘ though you are an entire stranger, you ne-  
 ‘ ver meet with bad wines, or disagreeable  
 ‘ victuals.’

By this time we found ourselves in the  
 place he had mentioned; and, having ordered  
 a pint of Lisbon, began to take a survey of  
 the company. Scarce had we seated our-  
 selves, when we were accosted by a smart  
 young fellow, with----‘ Well, gentlemen,  
 ‘ what are your thoughts of a war? Do  
 ‘ ye think our government will interfere in  
 ‘ the quarrel between the Portuguese and  
 ‘ Spaniards, after the many proofs they have  
 ‘ had of the infidelity of that dastardly set of  
 ‘ people?’ ‘ I know not, Sir,’ replied my  
 friend, ‘ how to answer your interrogations;  
 ‘ as the report of a rupture between those  
 ‘ powers has not yet been otherwise authen-  
 ‘ ticated than by newspaper authorities,  
 ‘ which I do not hold to be sufficient proof  
 ‘ of the fact: but, I should imagine, if they  
 ‘ really are at variance, our people know  
 ‘ better than to espouse the cause of the Por-  
 ‘ tuguese,

' tuguese, who by no means deserve it at  
 ' their hands; especially when it is con-  
 ' sidered, that the whole of their ability is  
 ' absolutely necessary, in the present situa-  
 ' tion of affairs, to bring about a reconcili-  
 ' ation with the disaffected colonists, and  
 ' establish unanimity at home.' Charmed  
 with the affability of my companion, the  
 young gentleman seemed desirous of improv-  
 ing the acquaintance; and, as he had in every  
 respect the appearance of a well-bred person,  
 we were not less pleased with his company.  
 After some conversation, by which we found  
 that he was a student at Oxford, and heir to  
 a very large fortune, he began, at our request,  
 to entertain us with an account of some char-  
 acters present. 'That young fellow,' said  
 he, 'accompanied by the lank-haired strip-  
 ' ling, is the son of a wealthy tradesman in  
 ' Whitechapel; who is as well known in the  
 ' environs of Covent-Garden, and as famous  
 ' for his feats of gallantry, as any one in  
 ' town. He boasts, that he has killed his  
 ' man, seduced his girl, cornuted his friend,  
 ' and drank several to death; with these  
 ' qualifications, and a consummate stock of  
 ' assurance, he thinks himself intitled to  
 ' rank with persons in the most exalted sta-  
 ' tions; and, indeed, to their shame be it  
 ' spoken, I have frequently seen him in com-  
 ' pany with several of our nobility, whose  
 ' vices he too successfully imitates. The

' first knowledge I had of him was at my father's, where he came upon a visit with Lord H-----; and he had, indeed, the impudence to make another by himself, without any invitation, with a view of obtaining the affections of my sister; but my father, who is a rough country gentleman, having found what kind of a person he was, forbid him the house, unless he chose to undergo the discipline of being dragged through a horse-pond: and this threat had the desired effect, for he never after made his appearance there. The youth you see with him is a younger brother, who he is initiating in those vices which render himself so despised.

' Observe,' continued the young gentleman, ' that pragmatistical coxcomb, who is talking to the bar-maid; see what pains he takes in endeavouring to persuade her that she has inspired him with a passion which he is not capable of feeling. The whole of his affection is indeed centered in his own sweet person; and he contemplates the dear image a hundred times a day, in a small portable mirror, which he wears in his pocket for that purpose. Pity it is that the glass cannot give him an internal view, and shew him his folly and vanity in their proper light! Such an one would indeed be an useful companion, as it might frequently

‘quently preserve him from the ridicule of his acquaintance.

‘The tall meagre figure, that eats so very ravenously one would imagine he had not had a regular meal for a month, is a French teacher to several boarding-schools round London; but his pay is so very small, and his necessary expences so great, that he can hardly make shift to get a living, and therefore takes care to eat hearty whenever cheap provision comes in the way. The person that sits with him is a dancing-master, and qualifies grown persons to dance cotillions, &c. of an evening, after he has attended his boarding-school customers in the day-time, in company with the Frenchman.’

This intelligence taking up near an hour, we found ourselves obliged, somewhat abruptly, to take leave of the young gentleman, after returning him thanks for his very agreeable company..



## CHAP. V.

*Walk to Highgate-----Sunday Ordinary-----  
Characters, with Remarks.*

THE day being remarkable fine, we agreed to walk as far as Highgate, to dinner; where my friend told me we should meet with a good ordinary, and plenty of genteel company. In our way thither, we could not help noticing the vast quantities of field mendicants; who would not indeed let us pass them without telling their dismal stories, and imploring our kind assistance to preserve them from the sharp attacks of hunger: though, as my friend observed, too many of them had a much greater inclination to purchase a certain kind of liquor, well known by the name of *gin*, which frequently supplies the place both of food and raiment. ‘There are,’ said my friend, ‘several publick-houses in St. Giles’s, supported almost entirely by this kind of people; where you may every evening behold the lame restored to the use of their limbs, the sick to their health, and the blind to their sight. I would not, however, be understood to mean, that this is the case with all the beggars we see; many of them are, no doubt, in real distress: and, though it is difficult to distinguish  
guilt

‘guish an object of charity from an impostor,  
 ‘we should not be deterred from acts of  
 ‘compassion, as the *intention*, not the *effect*,  
 ‘is principally to be regarded.’

Being arrived at the top of Highgate-Hill, we stopped a few minutes to admire the beautiful prospect that agreeable situation commands over the cities of London and Westminster, and the Kent and Surry hills beyond them; and then proceeded, as it was rather late, to the intended ordinary; where, when we arrived, dinner being on the table, we immediately sat down; and made a very hearty meal.

When we had tolerably well appeased our appetites, we began to take notice of the company, consisting of near twenty persons; among which were the landlord and landlady, who we observed to bestow several four looks on a thin well-dressed man with a fallow complexion, whom they seemed to think, and not without reason, eat a great deal more than the usual price would satisfy for. This person, my friend acquainted me, was no other than the famous Signior Diletanti, so celebrated for his musical abilities, and who ravishes the ears of the brilliant audiences at the Opera-house. ‘He is a native of Italy,’ continued my friend, ‘and was imported  
 ‘here for the amusement of the nobility, at  
 ‘a very high price. And though he is sup-  
 ‘posed to be materially deficient as a man,  
 ‘is

‘ is frequently seen in company with ladies  
 ‘ of rank and fortune ; but whether it be on  
 ‘ account of his musical talents, or that he  
 ‘ has some other method of rendering him-  
 ‘ self agreeable to them, I will not take up-  
 ‘ on me to determine.’

My friend now desired me to take notice  
 of a young man rather shabbily dressed ; in-  
 forming me that he was a hackney-writer,  
 and capable of getting two or three guineas  
 a week, at stated times of the year ; but that  
 being at present out of employ, and not hav-  
 ing prudence enough to lay by any thing  
 when he had it in his power, was obliged to  
 depend on the bounty of a distant relation,  
 who never advanced a single shilling, with-  
 out severe but just reproofs for his thought-  
 less conduct. ‘ The smart youth you see  
 ‘ him in discourse with,’ said my friend, ‘ is  
 ‘ office-clerk to an attorney of repute in  
 ‘ Gray’s Inn, and is in a fair way of being  
 ‘ reduced to the same situation with his com-  
 ‘ panion, as he frequently partakes in his  
 ‘ follies and extravagance. By their being  
 ‘ both booted, I suppose they have raised  
 ‘ money enough between them to hire a  
 ‘ couple of horses for half the day ; and are  
 ‘ probably going to take an afternoon’s ride  
 ‘ of twenty or thirty miles. Frequent repe-  
 ‘ titions of this amusement will perhaps sug-  
 ‘ gest to them, that they may use it to ad-  
 ‘ vantage ; and, though I will not to be a  
 ‘ prophet.

‘ prophet in this respect, there is too much  
 ‘ reason to think, that a dark evening and va-  
 ‘ cant pockets, may some time or other induce  
 ‘ them to be guilty of a crime which seldom  
 ‘ suffers it’s practisers to escape punishment,  
 ‘ never ignominy.’

The rest of the company was chiefly made up of reputable tradesmen, some of them with their families, and other genteel persons; who frequent this place, as my friend observed, for the conveniency of being able to take a longer walk in that delightful neighbourhood, than they could possibly do were they to dine in town.

After drinking our bottle, and spending an hour or two in very agreeable conversation on different subjects, we quitted this place, in pursuance of our design: and, as we went along, could not help remarking on the great utility of Sunday ordinaries; where, for the trifling charge of one shilling each, persons may be accommodated with a genteel dinner, consisting of two or three dishes of very excellent provisions.

In our way to Islington, that noted place for the consumption of cakes and ale, we passed by Holloway, formerly remarkable for the weekly sale of cheesecakes; notwithstanding which, as my friend informed me, they by no means equalled in goodness those made by the pastry-cooks in town. Near this place my friend pointed out a path  
 leading

## 46 A SUNDAY RAMBLE.

leading up a steep hill, which he said was the road to Hornsey-Wood; adjoining to which, he observed, there was a tolerable decent tea-house, pretty much frequented by the genteeler sort of people; but, as it was too far for us to reach conveniently, he advised that we should decline visiting it. Accordingly, we passed on through Islington, with a design of noticing the several tea-gardens in that neighbourhood: but, as they form a very material part of my Ramble, I shall at least honour their introduction with a new chapter.

C H A P.



## CHAP. VI.

*Description of White-Conduit House, Jubilee, Pantheon, Marybone, and Kensington Gardens.*

THE first garden we visited was that of White-Conduit House; which is situated on a rising ground, opposite a conduit, from whence it takes its name. The prospect is very extensive, commanding a most agreeable view of the metropolis, and the surrounding country. The garden is formed into several pleasing walks, prettily disposed: at the end of the principal one is a painting, which serves to render it much longer in appearance than it really is; and in the middle of the garden is a round fish-pond, encompassed with a great number of very genteel boxes for company, curiously cut into the hedges, and adorned with a variety of Flemish and other paintings. There are likewise two handsome tea-rooms, one over the other, as well as several inferior ones in the dwelling-house; but, as we were rather too early for the company, they contained no characters worthy of notice; and therefore, having entered this place by the coach-road leading from Islington, we quitted it almost immediately, by the front-gate, which only admits foot passengers.

From

From hence we proceeded to the Jubilee Garden; a place, as my friend acquainted me, formerly known by the name of Dobney's Bowling-Green; and then much frequented by the admirers of that manly exercise. 'But,' continued he, 'at the time Mr. Garrick thought proper to amuse the publick with a Jubilee at Stratford, in honour of the immortal Shakespeare, this place received the name of the Jubilee Tea-Garden; in compliance with the then prevailing taste, which could not relish any thing but what favoured of the Jubilee.'

When we entered the garden, I perceived that it was in a very ruinous condition; the walks not being kept in order, nor the hedges properly cut. There are, however, several good apartments in the house; and two handsome tea-rooms on the north side of the bowling-green, built one above the other. And, although truth will not permit me to say much in favour of the garden, justice requires that I should at least acknowledge the extreme civility of the present proprietor, who seems indefatigable in his endeavours to please by his very obliging behaviour.

Quitting this place, we crossed the fields near Sadler's Wells, and passed by another garden, called Islington Spa. This, my friend informed me, was esteemed one of the genteelest tea-gardens about the metropolis; and was still more eminent for a remarkable  
fine

fine mineral : but at the time of our perambulation it was not open for the publick ; the late proprietor's lease being out, (as we were given to understand) and the whole undergoing a thorough repair.

The Pantheon in the Spa-Fields next attracted our notice ; which is a large round building, with the statue of Fame on the top. The inside consists of two galleries, reaching entirely round the whole, for company to sit in, and a proportionate number of seats at the bottom. In the middle is a curious stove, with fire-places all round, constructed in such a manner as to carry off the smoke without any chimney, or the least inconvenience to the company, and at the same time warm the whole building in the severest weather. Beside this, there is a beautiful garden, well disposed into fancy-walks, and ornamented with a great variety of shrubs and fruit-trees. On one side of the garden is a large pond ; at the extremity of which is the statue of Hercules with his club, on a high pedestal ; and at the other end, a small genteel building for company, up a handsome flight of stone steps. One side of the pond, and that end which contains the Herculean statue, are likewise bordered with neat boxes for company ; and there are a great number of seats dispersed in different parts of the garden, together with several genteel tea-rooms in the dwelling-house adjoining. Notwith-

F

standing

standing the spaciousness of this place, and the prodigious number of people it appeared to be capable of containing, my friend assured me he had frequently been there when there was hardly a place to sit down. And indeed the rotunda was at this time so crowded, that the noise of the people's feet, together with the shape of the building, rendered it no bad similitude to what it was compared by a countryman present; who, staring with great seeming astonishment at the multitude of people in the spacious galleries, declared that it was the largest *bee-hive* he had ever beheld. To which an arch wag, who was pleased with the comparison, instantly replied---‘ Ay, friend, so it is; and though it contains little else but *drones*, you will find, if you trust them too far, that many of them are not without their *stings*.’

Having sufficiently noticed the place, we began to observe the company, consisting of some hundreds of people of both sexes; the greater part of which, notwithstanding their gay appearance, were evidently neither more nor less, than journeymen tailors, hairdressers, and other such *genteel* people, attended by their proper companions, milliners, mantua-makers, and servant-maids. There was likewise no small number of those who had thrown off even the mask of virtue, and were come to this place to barter their artificial charms for *sterling* beauty, to such  
unhappy

unhappy youths as came in their way with stronger passions than reflection. Some of the company were drinking tea, coffee, negus, and such like female liquors: while others, of a different cast, chose to regale themselves with a stronger beverage; and were swallowing down such plentiful draughts of punch, red-port, &c. as must unavoidably sooner make the place go round them in appearance, than they round it in reality.

Leaving this receptacle of noise and riot, we proceeded to Bagnigge-Wells; which was so greatly crowded, that we found it no easy matter to pass along the walks: and, though we were disposed to have drank a glass of wine, could perceive no place where we might conveniently sit. As the hurry and bustle of this place would not permit of any reflection, we quitted it as soon as we were able, and made the best of our way to Marybone-Garden.

From the pompous advertisements of the entertainments of this place, and the extravagant prices imposed for admission to behold them, we imagined it must unavoidably be a superlatively genteel place of Sunday resort; though, it being only just opened as a tea-garden, my friend had not yet visited it. On paying six-pence each, we received two tickets, intitling us to the same value in any kind of liquor, and were admitted into the garden. Never was I more disappointed



than with this wretched place: instead of beholding agreeable walks, beautiful alcoves, and delightful retreats; the garden, as it is arrogantly stiled, consists of nothing more than two or three gravel *roads*, and a few shapeless trees. The places *intended* for company, are the meanest possible to conceive; and the tables, if they are worthy that name, being chiefly made of unplanned boards wretchedly put together, are covered with stained dirty cloths, to prevent the teaspoons, &c. from falling through the crevices. Those parts which might otherwise somewhat resemble a garden, are clogged with a parcel of rubbish and lumber, for the fire-works of Signior Torre, and other ingenious imitators of the infernal regions. In short, the whole place is in the greatest confusion and disorder possible to imagine; and I only wonder that the publick have so long bore with this daring impeachment of their understanding. The affront, however, appears to be at present pretty well resented, for there was hardly any other company than foreign musical performers; who, being retained there the whole week besides, probably think it their duty to attend on a Sunday. Disgusted at so great an imposition, we presented our tickets to one of the waiters, and instantly quitted the place.

Scarce had we passed an hundred yards from the house, when I perceived a gentleman

man walking before us, whom I immediately recollected to be the person I had seen at Tottenham-Court Chapel; and was not a little surprised to find him and my friend salute each other in the most cordial manner. As soon as he recognized me, I asked him, if he could inform me of the reason why Marybone-Garden was suffered to be in so ruinous a condition, when the prices of admittance to the entertainments of that place greatly exceeded those of Ranelagh and Vauxhall, with both which places it was not worthy of being named. 'It is a place,' said the old gentleman, 'I seldom visit, and of course know very little about it; but it is reported, that the musical licence is nearly expired; and therefore, I suppose, the present occupiers do not think it worth their while to put it into repair, before they know whether it will be continued to them.' After this information, we took leave of the old gentleman; and, as we went along, I told my friend how I had met with him; and acquainted him with the conversation that had passed between us in the chapel, which I had forgot to do before. At length, we imperceptibly came to the borders of Hyde-Park, and immediately crossed to Kensington-Garden.

This place was the principal residence of GEORGE the second, and indeed worthy the habitation of that revered monarch. The

garden is the most agreeable I ever beheld ; (those of Kew and Richmond, and Stowe in Buckinghamshire, only excepted.) It is, however, like them, very extensive ; and contains a vast number of the most beautiful walks the strongest imagination can conceive. So great, too, is the variety of charming scenes in this delightful place, that every person, in every humour, may be accommodated to his wish. Does the *moralist* wish to indulge his meditations in private : he may plunge into the recesses of a thick grove, and enjoy his own reflections ; undisturbed, but by the plaintive notes of the blackbird, or the more melodious voice of the sweet-warbling thrush---Burns the *beau* to appear in a crowd of gaiety and elegance : he may visit the enchanting walks behind the Palace and Greenhouse ; where he will find those who equal him in *dress*, if they do not exceed him in *vanity* and *affectation*---Or seeks the *rejected lover* to forget the frowns of a capricious mistress : let him join the giddy crowd with the *beau* ; and, from the levity of the females he will there behold, learn to despise the artful part of the sex, and cease to love where it is in vain to expect a return---But, should the more *successful one* wish to breathe the ardour of his constant passion to an uncoquetish fair : let him frequently quit the crowd ; and, in the less frequented walks, melt her fond soul with softest tales of love.

---In

---In a word, the thoughtful, the giddy, the melancholy, and the gay, may all find places here to suit their respective dispositions.

A number of beautiful alcoves are dispersed over the garden, generally so contrived, as to command an agreeable prospect through the most delightful vistas: serving at once to repose the limbs and charm the eyes of the weary visitants. For the better regulating the company, servants are placed at the different entrances, to prevent persons meanly clad from going into the garden. But, notwithstanding the great care that is taken to preserve decency and decorum in this place, there is a generally complained of nuisance prevails, the removal of which seems not to be attempted; and that is, the unpardonable folly of scribbling obscene verses on the glass of the Greenhouse, &c. to the great offence of all those who are not lost to every sense of shame. And I cannot but remark, that though this practice is too well known, many apparently virtuous females were poring over the lines; who, I must be charitable enough to suppose, were not capable of reading them; for they could not certainly, if they comprehended their meaning, have perused them without blushing. I would, however, advise my more literate countrywomen to inform them of their error; and likewise let them know, (what some of them have  
probably

probably found by experience) that as well as the laughter such imprudent conduct creates among the other sex, they may frequently meet with hieroglyphicks sufficiently resembling nature to explain their intended meaning, without the least necessity of the spectators being able to name even the different letters of the alphabet.

. After walking about the garden for upwards of an hour, in order to behold the principal beauties of the place, and finding ourselves somewhat fatigued, we chose a seat which happened to be vacant near the Kensington-gate, where we could perceive every person that entered by that way. We had not been long seated, when a gentleman placed himself by us, and began to converse with the greatest familiarity. Perceiving, by his appearance and behaviour, that he was a person of distinction, we esteemed ourselves not a little happy in having chose this seat to rest on; particularly, as he entertained us with an account of several of the nobility, as they entered the garden, the true characters of whom he appeared to be perfectly acquainted with. Among those he described, were the Duke of G---- and Lord D----, whose vices are well known to the publick, without being enumerated here; it is sufficient to say, they were accompanied by Miss C---- and the infamous Mrs. B---, both well known in the theatrical world. When we had dis-

coursed



coursed some time, he very politely took his leave; and as we followed after almost immediately, were not a little surpris'd to find, by the heraldry of the chariot he stepped into, that we had been conversing with no less a person than the much esteemed Earl of T-----; who had, in the course of our conversation, artfully contriv'd to gain his own publick character from the mouth of my sensible companion. Happily, it was so justly given by my impartial friend, that it must perfectly satisfy that great man of the rectitude of his conduct, and convince him that his virtues are properly esteemed by the judicious part of mankind.

As we had now left the garden, and found it requisite to give languid nature some refreshment, we began to consider where it would be most convenient, without interrupting our design. Accordingly, it was agreed that we should cross a few fields to a place called Brompton; where my friend assured me there was a much frequented tea-garden, which would probably furnish us with fresh matter of speculation.

## C H A P. VI.

*Cromwell's Garden described-----The Green  
and St. James's Parks----Sunday Rout----  
Bagnio Scenes----Conclusive Reflections.*

THE tea-garden mentioned at the close of my last chapter, is situated at the distance of about half a mile from Kensington, being a pleasant rural walk from that place. it is known by the name of Cromwell's Garden; and is supposed to be so called, from having formerly belonged to the Protector. This place is much frequented, as my friend informed me, by those who visit Kensington Garden: and not a little used by the numerous ladies of pleasure who reside in that neighbourhood; which, from it's retired situation, he likewise observed, was well adapted for gallantry and intrigue.

As soon as we entered the garden, we ordered coffee to be prepared; and perceiving there was sufficient room for us, placed ourselves in an agreeable arbour, where there was only an elderly lady. In a few minutes, however, we found she was not without company; for two beautiful females entered the place, followed by a couple of well-dressed men, and seated themselves by her. It was easy for us to perceive that our company was  
not

not now agreeable : we therefore presently dispatched our coffee, and left them to their own conversation; but not before we had sufficiently gathered, from their significant behaviour, the true characters of the parties. That, however, was needless; for we had scarce quitted our seats, when my friend met an old acquaintance, who immediately informed us who they were.

‘The old woman,’ said he, ‘was formerly in  
 ‘ keeping with a rich merchant; but being  
 ‘ discarded, and having (contrary to the ge-  
 ‘ neral practice) been artful enough to save  
 ‘ the wages of iniquity, afterwards kept a  
 ‘ noted bagnio in the environs of St. James’s;  
 ‘ and though she acquired a very considera-  
 ‘ ble fortune, by the encouragement she ever  
 ‘ gave to debauchery, (sufficient, indeed, to  
 ‘ procure her a very genteel retreat at a de-  
 ‘ lightful mansion just by) cannot now help  
 ‘ encouraging vice in others, though age will  
 ‘ not permit her to continue it in her own  
 ‘ person. For this purpose, she boards se-  
 ‘ veral unhappy females, whose subsistence  
 ‘ must expire with their charms. The two  
 ‘ you have now seen with her, are of that  
 ‘ number; and, I suppose, their keepers not  
 ‘ chusing to be seen with them on a Sunday,  
 ‘ (being probably under the disagreeable ne-  
 ‘ cessity of accompanying their wives on  
 ‘ that day, to prevent suspicion) are come  
 ‘ to this place to procure gallants. And, no  
 ‘ doubt,

' doubt, as what they obtain this way is  
 ' judged to be more than they have occasion  
 ' for, (their infatuated admirers allowing  
 ' them every *necessary*) the old woman *kindly*  
 ' partakes in the profits of these adventures.  
 ' Notwithstanding her artfulness, however,  
 ' and the great care she takes not to be de-  
 ' ceived, she was some time ago pretty deep-  
 ' ly taken in, by a contrivance of a very sin-  
 ' gular nature.

' A Jew merchant had a most beautiful  
 ' mistress, who boarded with the old lady, at  
 ' the very *moderate* rate of four hundred  
 ' pounds *per annum*. It is, however, but  
 ' justice, to own, that the wages and sup-  
 ' port of two female servants and a footman  
 ' were included in this agreement, together  
 ' with the occasional use of the old woman's  
 ' carriage. The money was covenanted to  
 ' be paid half-yearly; but at the end of se-  
 ' ven months, the Jew informed her, that  
 ' he had purchased so largely in the three *per*  
 ' *cent.* annuities when the prices were low,  
 ' that he could not then sell out, without  
 ' sustaining a very considerable loss; but, in  
 ' order to make amends for the delay of pay-  
 ' ment, was willing to give her a bond for  
 ' four hundred and twenty, payable at the  
 ' end of the other five months, bearing inte-  
 ' rest at five *per cent. per annum*. The opu-  
 ' lent circumstances he appeared to be in,  
 ' left her no room to doubt the safety of the  
 ' money,

## A SUNDAY RAMBLE. 6

‘ money, and she chearfully accepted his  
‘ proposal. About a week before the bond  
‘ became due, as she was one day looking  
‘ over the list of bankrupts in the Gazette,  
‘ (which list she had frequently assisted to  
‘ augment) she perceived that the son of  
‘ Israel had deceived her, and was placed  
‘ among the unfortunates contained in that  
‘ melancholy sheet. Instantly she hurried  
‘ home, to vent her passion on the unhappy  
‘ cause of her loss; but was immediately in-  
‘ formed, that the young lady, having re-  
‘ ceived intelligence of the disaster that had  
‘ befallen her keeper, had packed up all her  
‘ clothes, jewels, &c. and retreated to the  
‘ metropolis. So greatly was the old wo-  
‘ man enraged at this affair, that she discard-  
‘ ed every servant in the house, for permit-  
‘ ting her to escape; and vowed revenge both  
‘ on her and the Jew. Accordingly, when  
‘ the dividends were made, she refused to  
‘ come in under the commission; thinking  
‘ it would be better to wait patiently till his  
‘ mistress should get a more opulent keeper:  
‘ when she was determined to transfer the  
‘ debt to her; and, if possible, oblige her to  
‘ pay it. In the mean time, the young lady  
‘ attracted the notice of a gentleman possessed  
‘ of a small fortune; and the old woman  
‘ having found out where she lived, imme-  
‘ diately arrested her for four hundred pounds,  
‘ for twelve months board and lodging. The  
‘ young

G



‘ young lady, however, put in bail to the  
 ‘ action; and, on a trial in the court of  
 ‘ King’s Bench, proving herself legally mar-  
 ‘ ried to a person who was gone on an East-  
 ‘ India voyage, and the court considering  
 ‘ the extravagance of the charge, the suit  
 ‘ was dismissed, with costs. Since this af-  
 ‘ fair, the old woman has been extremely  
 ‘ cautious; and, it is reported, will not  
 ‘ now take any boarder, without being paid  
 ‘ weekly.’

Having received this information, and thanked my friend’s acquaintance for the pleasure he had given us in the relation, we took a survey of the garden; which appeared to have nothing remarkable, or different from what has been described in those mentioned before, except a great number of yew-trees curiously cut, several of which surround a circular grass-plat before the house. We therefore left this place; and, as it began to grow late, made the best of our way to the Green-Park.

When we got there, though it was near ten o’clock, being a very fine evening, the place was extremely crowded with the genteelst company; and my friend pointed out a great many of the nobility, as they passed by us; but as few of them had any thing to recommend them, but the undeserved dignities which had been bestowed upon them, without any intrinsic worth, I think it entirely

tirely needless to take farther notice of them. This park, which is pleasantly situated, opens into that of St. James's; being no otherwise separated than by a row of wooden rails.

St. James's Park has at present very little to recommend it, except those well-known walks, called The Mall, which are full half a mile in length. This place, my friend observed, is chiefly used by the ladies in high life to walk in before dinner; and seldom visited by them in the evening, as it is too much frequented, at that time, by the more publickly-complying females. The park is, however, undergoing a reform; and therefore, till the alterations are finished, a description of the place would be absolutely ridiculous.

When we came out of the Green Park, we walked down to the Queen's palace, (generally called Buckingham-House) which is built at the end of the Mall; and though it is a handsome building, and has a far more respectable outward appearance than the King's palace at St. James's, is not, in my opinion, worthy the residence of so amiable a Queen.

In our way back again, up the Mall, I could not avoid noticing an amazing quantity of splendid carriages, (through a gate which opened on the left-hand side) attended by a prodigious number of powdered lacquies, who failed not to behave with the greatest insolence to such passers by as were hardy

enough to complain of their interrupting the free passage. Surprised at seeing so many equipages, I asked my friend if he could guess the cause of their assembly. ‘That,’ replied he, ‘will be attended with no great difficulty. This place is called the Stable-Yard, and is famous for the residence of Lady H-----, whose character is sufficiently known to the publick. I shall only say, this is one of those Sunday evening routs, which that *pious* lady frequently holds, in order to assemble the most depraved of our nobility of both sexes; where connections are frequently formed, by her *chaste* visitants, which bring no small emotion to a certain part of the metropolis, called Doctors Commons.’

The clock having struck ten while we were discoursing of these *polite* assemblies, my friend assured me that we could not leave the park but by this way, all the other gates being shut up at that hour. We therefore passed through the Stable-Yard, which brought us immediately to St. James’s palace gates. From thence we proceeded along Pall-Mall, towards Covent-Garden; which place, my friend observed, it was absolutely necessary for us to visit, in order to the completion of our plan.

Being arrived at the intended spot, we entered one of the most noted bagnios in that *virtuous* neighbourhood; and were scarce seated,

seated, when we were accosted by one of the *nuns* who frequent the house, with----‘Pray, gentlemen, will you please to favour me with a glass of wine?’ And, on our complying with her request, she instantly drank an obscene toast, placed herself on my knee, and began to behave with greater familiarity than I was disposed to permit. Chiding her indecency, I desired her to desist; when she immediately attacked both me and my companion with the most scandalous epithets possible to be bestowed: Of such a nature, indeed, that we found ourselves constrained to leave the place; lest the company present should imagine her assertions to be true, and bestow that resentment on us which is justly due to those who really deserve such epithets.

We then went to another house of the same cast; and my friend having cautioned me not to assume too much delicacy, we met with very little interruption.

The room we sat in was full of well-dressed persons; whose behaviour, however, but ill suited with their habits, as the two sexes seemed to vie with each other who should *excel* in obscene gestures and lewd conversation. Among the many characters present, my friend pointed out the following.

‘That gay young fellow,’ said he, ‘whose  
‘appearance at least equals that of a man of  
‘fortune, is nothing more than a mercer’s  
G 3 ‘shopman

‘shopman in Cheapside; and notwithstanding the figure he makes, his salary does not exceed thirty pounds a year; which is wholly spent in this abandoned manner, as the imprudence of a foolishly indulgent father supplies him with an adequate sum, in order that his appearance may be sufficiently genteel to attract the notice of some giddy heiress.

‘The youth that sits in the same box, (and who, as well as him, has got a prostitute on his knee) is a strolling actor, and occasional poet; and now wears the identical coat in which I saw him attempt to perform the character of Hamlet, last summer, in a barn in Essex.

‘In the next seat to these,’ continued my friend, ‘is a more despicable being than either; for though he has been many years married to an amiable woman, he cannot refrain from visiting these places, and bestowing those endearments on a wanton harlot, which are so justly due to the merits of his wife, even were there no moral obligation.’

My friend now observed upon the females; several of whom he was sufficiently acquainted with, to give me an account of their connections. Some of them, I found, followed this wretched life from necessity, others from imprudence, and others from inclination; and, sorry I am to say it, there appeared to  
be



be more of this last sort, (if I may be allowed to judge from their abandoned behaviour) than both the former ones put together.

Having sufficiently satisfied my curiosity, I entreated my friend to leave this detestable place; where folly and debauchery appeared to have totally banished decency and common sense: nor did he want much persuasion to quit a place so hateful to every being who has the least spark either of religion or virtue.

As it was near twelve o'clock when we left this house, I thought it was now time to put an end to our perambulation. Accordingly, we proceeded in our way home; and, as we went along, the following reflections occurred to my companion, which he communicated as they arose.

‘ From the various scenes,’ said he, ‘ at which we have been this day present, we are naturally led to consider the motives by which the several parties were actuated to commit those indiscretions which have procured them our contempt; and, on a dispassionate enquiry, we shall find, that, “ In reas’ning PRIDE, my friend, their error lies; “ All quit their sphere, and rush into the skies.”

POPE.

‘ And, indeed, from this root proceed most of the vices and follies which disgrace the human species. To what else can be attributed

' tributed the shameful emulation so conspi-  
 ' cuous in the lower class of our mecha-  
 ' nicks; who seem to vie with the nobility  
 ' in gaiety of dress, and dissipation of man-  
 ' ners! Hence, too, proceeds the present  
 ' alarming state of our religion: the supe-  
 ' rior clergy are above teaching the common  
 ' people; and they disdain to receive in-  
 ' struction from those who, in a worldly  
 ' view, are too frequently greatly inferior  
 ' to themselves. If we turn our eyes to the  
 ' scenes which last presented themselves in  
 ' those houses of infamy we have just now  
 ' quitted, we shall instantly perceive that  
 ' this fatal vice has been the grand cause of  
 ' those unhappy creatures prostituting their  
 ' youth and beauty to satisfy the brutal pas-  
 ' sions of sensualists and debauchees. Brought  
 ' up in idleness by their fatally indulgent  
 ' parents, they learn at an early age to de-  
 ' spise household employ; looking with con-  
 ' tempt on those whose necessity obliges  
 ' them to submit to domestick drudgery.  
 ' As they increase in years, the notice some  
 ' superficial attraction obtains them, swells  
 ' the fond parents heart with rapture; who,  
 ' in their excess of joy at the opening beau-  
 ' ties of their offspring, spare no expence to  
 ' procure them every polite qualification ne-  
 ' cessary for those who are to fill such high  
 ' stations as their partiality fondly imagines  
 ' must be the fate of charms so very power-  
 ' ful.

' ful. But, alas! what is the consequence?  
 ' Being introduced into every gay assem-  
 ' bly, (with the *honourable* view of ensnaring  
 ' youthful opulence) they are seen by those  
 ' that are full as artful, and more experienced  
 ' than themselves, who seldom----very sel-  
 ' dom indeed---fail in their attempts upon  
 ' such virtue, and so poorly guarded. De-  
 ' prived of that which might have otherwise  
 ' furnished them with some consolation in  
 ' the midst of every misfortune that could  
 ' then have befallen them, they find them-  
 ' selves obliged to submit to the *generosity* of  
 ' their seducer; who probably takes them  
 ' into keeping, under the character of *mistress*;  
 ' but with how little propriety they are so  
 ' called, I leave to be determined by those  
 ' whose sad experience enables them to be  
 ' the best judges of the matter. Subject to  
 ' the capricious disposition of an unprincipled  
 ' villain, (for the person who is guilty of  
 ' seduction, however exalted his station, cer-  
 ' tainly deserves this appellation, at least)  
 ' they are continually in the worst state of  
 ' dependency; the smallest decay of their  
 ' beauty, the jealousy or wavering of their  
 ' keeper, their real inconstancy, and a thou-  
 ' sand other incidents, occasion their imme-  
 ' diate dismissal, and plunge them still lower  
 ' in the gulph of infamy; till at length they  
 ' are compelled by necessity to solicit their  
 ' subsistence, at the expence of every thing  
 ' that

‘ that should distinguish them from “ the  
 “ beasts that perish.” All these calamities,  
 ‘ O pride ! originate from thee !’

Here my friend finished his remarks ; the  
 justness of which cannot be disputed, I think,  
 by any rational being. May they impress  
 the mind of the reader with a proper con-  
 tempt for the parent vice !----May they shew  
 the folly of educating children (particularly  
 females) in a manner superior to the station  
 they may reasonably be supposed to fill !----  
 And lastly, may they steel him against such  
 degenerate wretches as basely endeavour to  
 seduce the softer sex from the paths of vir-  
 tue, and thereby render them involuntary  
 corrupters of mankind !-----Be these my  
 wishes but fulfilled ; and I care not for the  
 fate of the rest of this performance---whether  
 it be esteemed worthy a corner in the libra-  
 ries of the curious, or fit only to line the cara-  
 vans of the *vestals* in Tavistock-Street.

F I N I S.

